

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





# Northern Region News



Issue #4

A Newsletter For Employees and Retirees

June 24, 1991

## Regional News

### **Remembering Our Firefighters**

by Deanna Riebe, Editor

**F**orty two years ago, 13 firefighters lost their lives fighting a fire in Mann Gulch on the Helena National Forest. These men were honored at a special memorial service in Missoula, May 8, at the dedication of the National Wildland Firefighters Memorial — a memorial to recognize all those who have lost their lives fighting fires.

More than 600 people attended the service - among them 77 family members and friends of those who died at Mann Gulch. They traveled here from all parts of the United States — North Carolina, California, Florida, Washington, Pennsylvania, Texas, Massachusetts, Idaho, Oklahoma, and from all over Montana.

There was talk of old times, memories shared, and tears shed as guests visited the monument, and mingled after the services.

The dedication and memorial service was part of the Forest Service Centennial. There were tours of the smokejumper base and of a Type 1 overhead fire camp which was set up for the visitors. A Ford Tri-Motor, one of the first passenger planes made, was flown in from Oregon for the occasion. The Tri-Motor was used for years by the Forest Service for dropping smokejumpers and cargo.

A memorial service was also held May 7 at Mann Gulch,



*Smokejumper Memorial at Missoula Aerial Fire Depot*

Photo by Mark Wiggins



*A crowd awaits the memorial services.*

Photo by Mark Wiggins

hosted by the Helena National Forest. About 35 people attended, including Associate Chief George Leonard, Montana Governor Stan Stephens, veteran smokejumper Earl Cooley, and Dr. Bud Little of Helena, the first doctor to arrive at Mann Gulch after the fire. Governor Stephens presented a proclamation declaring May 7, 1991, as Wildland Firefighters Appreciation Day in Montana.

The monument is nestled amongst the pines on a grassy knoll at the Aerial Fire Depot. It's built of Rock Creek stone arranged in an "L" shape, 10 feet by 30 feet long, and 4 1/2 feet high. Embedded in the earth in front of the monument are squares of granite stonework extending the length of the "L"; dispersed amongst these stones are 13 square markers displaying the names of the men who died at Mann Gulch. A few feet from the monument, on the other side of the knoll, is another marker - this one bearing the name, Harry

Gisborne, who also died at Mann Gulch. Gisborne, a fire researcher at the Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, died of a heart attack in November, 1949,

*Continued on page 2*



Photo by Deanna Riebe

*Accompanied by Regional Forester John Mumma (left) and Associate Chief George Leonard (right), Allen Kolstad, Montana's Lieutenant Governor, holds a proclamation signed by Governor Stan Stephens proclaiming May 7, 1991, as Wildland Firefighters Appreciation Day in Montana.*



## Smokejumpers Memorial

continued from page 1

while inspecting the site of the tragedy for his research.

The entire cost of the monument was paid for through donations from smokejumpers, past and present, family members and friends of those who died, and many, many others who wanted to see the firefighters honored. Over \$11,000 was donated.

Associate Chief George Leonard was the keynote speaker. Leonard said Missoula's Aerial Fire Depot was a very suitable location for the memorial because it was one of the first centers for firefighting and fire research. He noted that many of the improvements in firefighting techniques and equipment have been made right here at the Missoula Technology Development Center, the Intermountain Fire Sciences Laboratory, and by the firefighters themselves.

Other speakers were Regional Forester John Mumma; Mann Gulch Fire survivor Bob Sallee; and Allen Kolstad, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Montana. Reverend William F. Duffey, former smokejumper and assistant fire management officer for Troy District, Kootenai National Forest, performed the invocation. Jim Mann, Director of Fire and Aviation Management was Master of Ceremonies.

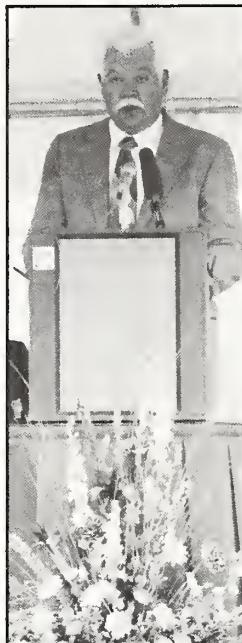
John Mumma lamented the deaths, but noted that it was this tragedy that led to extensive fire research, the development of the 10 standard firefighting orders, fire shelters and better training.

Bob Sallee, the only survivor of the Mann Gulch Fire still living, shed some light on the caliber of person who becomes a smokejumper. He said of the men who died at Mann Creek, "they were outstanding young men selected from among the best, with proven courage, determined to succeed, and dedicated to doing the job assigned." He said, "they were men who had decided to test their personal courage, to face fear...." He said there is no better way to put the question of courage aside forever than to jump out of an airplane.

"Smokejumping solidifies a courage that takes you through life," continued Sallee, "Nothing can ever be as difficult as stepping out that door the first time." He added, "We hear a lot about teamwork....there is no better lesson in teamwork than the one you get in checking your buddy's static line and depending on him to check yours." Sallee is engineering manager for the Inland Empire Paper Company in Spokane.

Lieutenant Governor Kolstad praised the Forest Service smokejumpers, not only for their service in fighting fires, but for the many rescue missions they have taken part in. He referred to them as "giants and legends in history."

Following the ceremony, 13 jumpers parachuted onto a nearby hill in memory of the 13 smokejumpers who died.



Bob Sallee, one of the three survivors of the Mann Gulch Fire speaks at the memorial service.

## The Mann Gulch Fire

Shortly after 3:00 p.m. on August 5, 1949, 15 smokejumpers parachuted into Mann Gulch, a rugged piece of country about 15 miles north of Helena, to fight a small, routine forest fire. Spotter Earl Cooley and foreman Wag Dodge chose a jump spot up the gulch and a distance from the fire. When the jumpers hit the ground, the fire was burning on a ridge on the south side of the gulch. It was only about 60 acres. Jim Harrison, the recreation guard from Meriwether Campground walked in to suppress the fire, and later joined the group.

At about 5:30 Dodge had his men cross to the north side of the gulch, opposite the fire, and walk down toward the river, reasoning they could attack it from the other side of the gulch. But, within minutes the fire jumped across to the north side of the gulch, spreading from heavy timber on one side, to dry grass and scattered timber on the other. By this time the wind had come up, funneling through the Gates of the Mountains; the temperature was about 100 degrees. Dodge knew he could not begin attacking the fire with the Missouri River at his back as planned, and immediately had his men reverse direction. After about 300 yards, he had them drop their heavy tools and head for the ridge. But the fire moved faster than the men could travel up the steep, rocky terrain. It exploded into an inferno, and within 10 minutes grew to 3,000 acres.

Three escaped — Bob Sallee and Walt Rumsey managed to get over the ridge and find shelter in a rock slide, just seconds ahead of their companions. They wrapped their shirts around their faces against the smoke, and the fire burned over and around them. Foreman Wag Dodge built an escape fire and found safety within the burned out area. (Escape fires were unknown then; Dodge couldn't get any of the men to join him.) The rest of the men perished in the fire — 12 jumpers and the recreation guard (formerly a jumper). Shortly past 6:00 p.m., the fire had passed over. Five men were still alive — two badly burned. The two died in the Helena hospital the following day.

The men who died in the Mann Gulch Fire are Stanley J. Reba, Silas R. Thompson, Joseph P. Sylvia, James O. Harrison, Robert J. Bennett, Newton R. Thompson, Leonard L. Piper, Eldon E. Diettert, Marvin L. Sherman, David R. Navon, Philip R. McVey, Henry J. Thol, Jr., and William J. Hellman.

*The success of the dedication of the National Wildland Firefighter Memorial was the result the efforts of many people. The Incident Management Team that provided leadership for this event thanks everyone who helped in making the dedication a quality event that will be long remembered, especially by the family members and friends of those who have fallen in the line of duty fighting wildfires across the United States.*

*Tim Love, Incident Commander*

# The Leading Edge

## Remembering Those Who Gave Their Lives

**O**n May 8 we commemorated 13 smokejumpers who died fighting the Mann Gulch Fire on the Helena National Forest in 1949, and at the same time we dedicated a national memorial recognizing all those who have lost their lives fighting fires — the National Wildland Firefighters Memorial.

I felt honored to be a part of this ceremony and to remember these special individuals, along with their family members and friends, who came from all over the country for the occasion. Many others who couldn't come in person sent letters and donations for the memorial. It was very touching to read these letters, many of which spoke of losing a best friend or family member at Mann Gulch.

These young men are still very much alive in memories today (over 42 years later). Although I did not know them personally, my life and the lives of all wildland firefighters have been changed as a result of the lessons we learned from their loss.

Smokejumping was in its infancy in 1949 and these thirteen men were among its pioneers. Despite the terrible tragedy that affected so many, we learned from it many important lessons that



John Mumma

by John Mumma  
Regional Forester

have since saved lives and led to a better understanding of fire behavior and technology. For example, it emphasized the need to fund fire research, which ultimately led to the creation of the Intermountain Fire Sciences Laboratory in Missoula. It also spurred the development of the 10 standard firefighting orders,

which every firefighter commits to memory. It accelerated the use of fire retardant, and showed the need to develop a shelter. It led to better training, and introduced the concept of backfiring and burning out a safe area.

It is especially important during this, the Centennial year, to remember the contributions that so many, not only those who died at Mann Gulch, have made. With this memorial, we intend to see that all who have lost their lives fighting wildfires will never be forgotten.

### Gallatin National Forest

## Garber Named Supervisor

**D**ave Garber, deputy forest supervisor of the Siuslaw National Forest in Corvallis, Oregon, will supervise the Gallatin National Forest, beginning in mid-July. Dave is a familiar face to Region One, having served as wildlife program manager for the Region from 1984 to 1987.

Garber brings 23 years of Federal service to his new position, including assignments in five Regions. He holds a degree in biology and master of science in wildlife management. He served with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish & Game prior to his Forest Service career. Garber's first assignments were on the Six Rivers and Inyo National Forests in Region Five. In 1976 he moved to the Tongass National Forest in Ketchikan, Alaska, as fisheries and wildlife program manager; and in 1979, was promoted to district ranger on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. From there he moved to his position as wildlife program manager in the R-1 Regional Office, and the 1987 accepted the deputy forest supervisor position on the Siuslaw.



Dave Garber

## News Briefs

### **Smokejumper Killed Testing Parachute**

**Bill Martin**, a Forest Service smokejumper based in Grangeville, was killed May 31 when his main parachute failed to open. Martin was one of 10 veteran smokejumpers participating in an evaluation of the Ram-Air parachute system — a type of parachute used by skydivers and BLM smokejumpers. It is known to be highly maneuverable and was being tested near Missoula to see if it would work in mountainous, timbered terrain. The Ram-Air is not hooked to a static line inside the airplane, as are those used by the Forest Service. (The static line automatically opens the main parachute.)

Martin, 34, was a squad leader and veteran of 230 jumps. A memorial fund established in his memory will provide a wrestling scholarship through the Grangeville High School. (Bill worked with young people in local wrestling programs.) Donations may be sent to: William Martin Wrestling Memorial Scholarship Fund, First Federal Bank of Idaho, P.O. Box 270, Grangeville, ID 83530. Martin's wife, Kathy, works for the Nez Perce National Forest.

### **New Forest Supervisors**

**Mike King** of the Programs and Legislation staff in the Washington Office, was selected as the new supervisor of the Nez Perce National Forest. Watch for details in the next issue of the *Northern Region News*.

**Dave Rittenhouse**, a Missoulian with a long history of Forest Service assignments in Region One has been named supervisor of the Ketchikan Area of the Tongass National Forest. For the past three years he has been in the Washington Office serving on the Land Management Planning Staff.

### **Training Special Forces**

The Missoula Aerial Fire Depot trained 24 members of the U.S. Army Special Forces for two weeks in April. The troops practiced parachuting in rough terrain and small spots within timbered country. The Aerial Fire Depot has been training military jumpers since 1940.

## "Riding High" in a Ford

by Deanna Riebe, Editor

**T**he unmistakable sound of a Ford Tri-Motor filled the skies over Missoula, May 7 and 8. From the air, people could be seen running out of their houses, heads to the sky, to view once again the airplane that had been a common sight in the 1930-60s.

This special craft was visiting the Aerial Fire Depot as part of the National Wildland Firefighter Dedication and the Forest Service Centennial celebration. A crowd gathered around the old airplane examining it inside and out, and some, including myself, climbed aboard.

I'll admit I was a bit squeemish about flying in an aircraft made in 1928 that appeared to be made of aluminum roofing material and sounded like my Mom's cake mixer just before it stripped its gears. I suddenly developed foot cramps for the first time in my life, a little nausea, and besides - as noisy as it was, I was concerned for my hearing.

But as I stepped into the Ford Tri-Motor, and saw the solid quality workmanship in this piece of history, those thoughts were fractured; and when I learned that it had been entirely rebuilt in 1964, my concerns were gone.

The elegantly decorated interior of the Ford Tri-Motor is fit for royalty. Mahogany walls and ceiling, and seats upholstered in green leather with mahogany armrests give a warm welcome. Small electric lamps line the walls



The Tri-Motor over Missoula.

Photo by Michael Gallacher, Missoulian



The Ford Tri-Motor, like an old friend, returns to the Missoula Aerial Fire Depot to visit.

Photos by Deanna Riebe



Inside the craft, a plush interior welcomes the boarder.



The familiar profile of the long-winged Ford Tri-Motor.  
Photo by Mark Wiggins.

above the 13 seats, and fancy green braided handgrips with tassels on the end are spaced evenly on each side. Homey curtains decorate the windows. Air vents are simple. They are mounted on the wall, and with a firm pull, you have fresh air directly from the outside.

The aisle between two single rows of seats is definitely one-lane, narrowing to 8 inches at the rear of the plane. As you walk up the aisle to the cockpit, you do walk "up," because the plane angles when parked. Mahogany dresses up the cockpit too, including the two steering wheels.

The Tri-Motor's body is covered with corrugated metal. Its enormous wings are about three feet thick where they join the plane's body. The wheels bear the same tires used on Ford's automobiles.



In its day, the Tri-Motor offered the most modern air travel available, including the first onboard restroom and stewardess service. It was built by the Ford-owned Stout Metal Airplane Company, and is known as the aircraft that paved the way for modern air travel. Even after it was replaced by the faster DC-2 and DC-3 for passenger service, it remained the mainstay for dropping smokejumpers and para-cargo in the 40s and 50s. The Tri-Motor flies slow at today's standards — 115 mph cruise speed; 135 mph maximum. Because its stalling speed is so low (64 mph) it was ideal for dropping jumpers. Also, because it could be flown at low altitudes and low speeds, the craft was often used for sightseeing tours.

The particular aircraft that visited Missoula for the  
continued on page 7



Wise Use of  
Your Natural  
Resources

## Centennial Update

### June ● National Forest Month

June is National Forest Month and many special activities are scheduled. It is a time for sharing with all the publics, as well as employees, what is happening on their national forests and grasslands, and at research sites and experimental forests. On June 14, Forest Services offices throughout the United States hosted open houses so the public could join us in celebrating our 100th anniversary.

On June 20-22, a national symposium/workshop held in Missoula focused on the historical origins and significance of the National Forest System and the techniques of interpreting its history.

### June 24 ● National Poster Art Competition Awards Ceremony

Winning posters in a national poster competition co-hosted by the Lewis and Clark NF, the Boone and Crockett Club, and the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls will be unveiled at the museum June 24. Bart Jerner of Homewood, Illinois, won the grand prize of \$10,000. Chief F. Dale Robertson and George Hixson, president of the Boone and Crockett Club, are expected to present the award.

The posters will be displayed for two or three weeks in the museum, then will be sent on tour. Jerner's poster will be reproduced as a Centennial commemorative poster. The prize money was donated by the Boone and Crockett Club, which was established in 1887 by Theodore Roosevelt to help preserve American wildlife, protect habitat and promote conservation.

### June 28-29 ● Rededication of First Forest Reserve

A rededication of the first forest reserve will be held in Cody, Wyoming, June 28 and 29. The Yellowstone Forest Reserve was the first to be named, on March 30, 1891. A pony express ride, planned by the Custer, Gallatin, Targhee, Bridger-Teton, and Shoshone National Forests, in cooperation with a group of private citizens, will take place in concert with the national rededication in Cody. U.S. mail and written proclamations recognizing the formation of the National Forest System will be delivered by pony express.

### July 10 ● Marias Pass Historic Site Rededication

A rededication of the historic site on Marias Pass is scheduled for July 10. Marias Pass is on U.S. Highway 2 (formerly the Roosevelt International Highway) at the Continental Divide, just south of Glacier National Park. An obelisk resembling the Washington Monument was built in 1930 to observe the completion of the highway and to commemorate the Forest Service's 25th anniversary. It was moved from its original position in the center of the highway in 1989, 150 feet southeast, and is now positioned on the Continental Divide.

### July 13 ● Living History Day at Lochsa Historical Ranger Station

This is one event where you can be a participant and a spectator. You are invited to come and share your talents and observe the skills of other participants at the Clearwater National Forest's historical Lochsa Ranger Station (48 miles east of Kooskia, on Highway 12). Join in the fun, don clothing from the olden days, and come to the Lochsa. Try your hand at cross-cut sawing and cross-cut saw sharpening, whip sawing, shake-splitting, loading mules, horse logging

by Laird Robinson, Region One  
Centennial Coordinator



### Selling Like Hotcakes -- Centennial T-Shirts !!!

Order yours now for Centennial events. T-shirts, polo shirts, and sweat shirts with this specially-designed Northern Region Centennial Logo can be ordered from the Regional Public Affairs Office.

T-shirts are \$7.00; sweatshirts, \$15.00. Both can be ordered in white, silver, sky blue, teal, red, and black. Polo shirts are \$15.00, and are available in pink, white, powder blue, silver, yellow, black, burgundy, jade, kelly green, navy blue, red, and royal blue.

All are available in adult sizes: small, medium, large, and extra-large. They are 50% cotton, 50% polyester.

To order, contact Kimberly Delgado at (406) 329-3392 or FTS 8-585-3392; Data General: K.Delgado:R01A. All proceeds go to support Centennial activities.

and horseshoeing, quilting and spinning — to name a few! Activities begin at 9:00 a.m. You will hear old-time country music throughout the day, enjoy some old yarns and tales in a program that begins at 12:00 noon, and witness the dedication and grand opening of the newly refurbished Lochsa River Historic Trail at 12:30 p.m. Bring a picnic lunch and make a day of it.

For more information, or to volunteer your assistance, contact Mel Fowlkes, Lochsa Ranger Station, Kooskia, Idaho; phone: (208) 926-4275.

### July 14 ● Lochsa River Trail Initiation Ride/Hike/Bike

Help initiate the Lochsa River Historic Trail by riding, hiking or mountain biking. We'll meet at Lochsa Ranger Station at 8:30 a.m. You can travel from the station to Fish Creek (1 1/2 miles), to Beaver Flat (6 miles), or all the way to Split Creek (16 miles).

### September 29 - Oct. 2 ● National Forest Service Reunion

A national Forest Service reunion of employees and retirees - the first-ever - will be held in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, September 29 through October 2. For information, write: Sharing Memories and Visions, National Forest Service Reunion, P.O. Box 1064, Glenwood Springs, CO 81602.

### Reprints of Historical Books

Two popular books having to do with the history of the Forest Service have been reprinted for the Centennial:

- *The U.S. Forest Service: A History*, by Harold K. Steen. Cost: \$14.95 plus \$3.00 postage (Washington residents add 8.2% sales tax). Address: U. of Washington Press, P.O. Box 50096, Seattle, WA 98145-5096. Phone: (206) 543-8870.

- *Bernard Edward Fernow: A Story of North American Forestry*, by Andrew Rodgers III. Cost: \$19.95 plus \$2.00 postage for first copy, \$0.95 each additional copy (North Carolina residents add 5% sales tax.) Address: Duke University Press, Box 6697 College Station, Durham, NC 27708. Phone: (919) 684-2173.

## Montana Special Olympics

by Jeff Menk, Social Services Assistant, Trapper Creek Job Corps Center

**T**he Trapper Creek Job Corps Center and Montana Special Olympics have formed a bond. Trapper Creek entered its fourth year in a volunteer capacity February 20 - 22, with ten students donating 240 work hours towards the Montana Special Olympics, held at Lost Trail Ski Resort.

Trapper Creek student volunteers were: Ken Fuegmann, Bryan Searles, Mike Dupont, Joyce Cummings, Jason Nelson, Shannon Hoskins, Joe Cook, Tim Vigil, Dom Vann, and Iver Olson.

Trapper Creek's specialty this year, as in the past three years, was the ever-popular tubing run. Trapper students built and maintained the tubing run, and for the duration of the winter games, monitored its activities for safety. According to staff supervisor, Jeff Menk, "This makes four years successively without a single accident."

Prior to the games, Trapper Creek volunteers created stairways of snow, established access paths to competition areas, shoveled snow, unloaded vehicles, and a variety of other tasks. These ten students released hundreds of balloons at the opening ceremonies, and were there at the closing ceremonies to wish the competitors farewell. Throughout the games, Trapper Creek provided parking valets, huggers, cheerleaders, gate keepers, carriers of special olympians and wheelchairs. The volunteers also insured the arrival of Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl.

On February 26, at a Center assembly, the students

received certificates and Montana Special Olympic sweatshirts. In time, the certificates will fade, and the sweatshirts will be outgrown, but the memories will last a lifetime. These young men and women will long remember that which they gave, but more so, that which they received back from the special olympians of the 1991 games.



*Smokey with a Special Olympian*



*Trapper Creek volunteers: left to right: Joyce Cummings, Shannon Hoskins, Bryan Searles, Joe Cook, Jason Nelson, Mike Dupont, and Ken Fuegmann. Volunteers not pictured are Dom Vann, Tim Vigil, and Iver Olsen.*

## Bitterroot National Forest

### Trapper Creek Students Build Senior Center

by Marlette Lacey, Administrative Officer, Trapper Creek Job Corps Center

**T**he building of the Victor Senior Citizens Center is a community-oriented, non-profit, hands-on project. The project combines the enthusiasm and energies of young builders with those of a cadre of retired volunteers.

When Trapper Creek Job Corps Center administrators learned of the Senior Citizens efforts to build a new building, they agreed to provide the labor as a community project and training for their students. Trapper Creek students are constructing the new 32 x 72 foot center which will include a kitchen, dining room, craft room, walk-in freezer, two restrooms, and storage, free of charge. They are using donated plans drawn by citizen Les Golden.

Approximately 40 students will have

worked on the building when it's completed, putting in 400 to 500 hours. Eighteen Job Corps trainees have done the footings and foundation on the center, and other classes are taking over the carpentry, masonry, and painting of the building.

Four instructors direct the class: lead carpenter Bruce Bailey and his assistant, Gary Kidder of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; painter Jack Sain of The Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades; and Emory Pirtle, Cement Masons International Association.

There are 25 to 30 seniors who are served noon meals at the center daily and about 100 belong to the local organization. The seniors have made 10 moves in

the last eight years. Their former meeting place was up for sale and they couldn't raise the \$75,000 needed for a new one. So Grace Smith, Senior Citizen Center Building Fund President, began fundraising attempts. The seniors have raised \$20,000 to date, with matching funds available through the Ravalli Council on Aging, bringing the total to \$40,000.

Citizen Harold Stanley donated four corner lots. (The new center will be named "The Stella Cates Brown Stanley Memorial Center" in honor of Harold's late wife.) Ravalli County donated an additional two lots in the same block as park land to be maintained by the center members. The project is expected to be completed by the fall of 1991.

## Regional News

### **Special Awards in Lands**

**B**ob Barwick, realty specialist for the Deerlodge National Forest was awarded recently with the 1991 Lands Director's Award for making major improvements in land ownership on the Forest. Through his work, two areas of difficult-to-manage land were exchanged for more desirable holdings. Both projects involved innovative solutions to problems and doing tasks that



Bob Barwick, left, realty specialist for the Deerlodge NF, accepts award from Chuck Wassinger, R.O. Director of Lands and Minerals.

some considered "impossible."

In addition, three Northern Region employees received Special Lands Achievement Awards: W. Dale Harcharik, Gallatin NF appraiser, for valuation work accomplished in 1991 totaling \$29.5 million in appraised values; Margaret Meckel, conveyance examiner, Idaho Panhandle NFs, for her creative efforts in resolving an exceptionally difficult title claim problem; and Ron Wachsmuth, forester, Lolo NF, for his successful efforts to reduce a large backlog of special-use cases.

#### Helena National Forest

### **Forest Service Enters Joint Venture With Seven Up Pete**

by Lorraine Parrish, Public Affairs Specialist

**S**even Up Pete Joint Venture, a mining company owned by Phelps Dodge Mining and Canyon Resources, will aid the Forest Service in a significant recreation project. Tom Liebscher, District Ranger on Lincoln Ranger District, said the Stemple Pass area will receive much needed improvements in parking areas, a permanent restroom, picnic tables, benches and campfire rings, and new signage.

Seven Up Pete has entered into a partnership with the Forest Service to help accomplish the project and expects to provide nearly \$20,000 worth of equipment, labor and cash. The Stemple Pass area has some of the best cross-country ski trails in central Montana, with use increasing each year. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) also passes through Stemple Pass. The planned improvements will provide trailhead facilities for the users of the CDNST during the summer and fall.

Liebscher said that partnerships provide excellent opportunities to stretch available funds for recreation projects. Seven Up Pete Joint Venture's project manager, Steve Enders, expressed, "We're committed to this project and to the recreating public. We think this is a wise use of our resources to aid in such a worthwhile development."

### **Newsletter Guidelines**

The Northern Region News is published by the Northern Region Public Affairs Office for employees and retirees. Following are guidelines for submitting stories:

- Articles should feature Forest Service employees and retirees involved in Forest Service activities and projects.
- Articles must be concise and timely. All articles are subject to editing, and may not be used if outdated, inappropriate, or if space does not permit.
- Photos should be black and white, glossy prints if possible.
- Send articles to D.Riebe:R01A (Data General) or Deanna Riebe, Northern Region Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807. The public affairs officer on your Forest may want to preview articles before they are sent. If so, please follow that process.

#### Regional News

### **Toward a Multicultural Organization**

The Forest Service Task Force on Work Force Diversity has recently published their report in a full color magazine entitled "Toward a Multicultural Organization." You have undoubtedly seen it by now. The report recommends four overall strategies to pursue and eleven specific goals for achieving work force diversity. Some strategies will take a strong, active, personally involved leadership at all levels of the organization to bring about the envisioned changes; some can be implemented on a local basis while others may take Service-wide initiatives.

Region One has already taken steps toward moving to a multicultural organization through work force diversity training, which is being scheduled throughout the Region for the coming year.

### **Ford, continued from page 4**

dedication of the National Wildland Firefighters Memorial is one of four remaining planes, of the 199 Tri-Motors made, that are still flying. It is now part of a collection of 23 antique aircraft owned by Evergreen International Airlines, Inc. of McMinnville, Oregon. It began its life of service for Transcontinental Air Transport (now TWA) in 1929, and was used on one leg of the first transcontinental passenger service from San Diego to New York, carrying such famous passengers as Charles Lindberg and Amelia Earhart.

After being retired as a passenger plane, this aircraft ended up in Central America for many years, moving mining equipment and supplies throughout Mexico and Nicaragua. It was returned to the United States in 1955 in a state of disrepair. In 1964, craftsmen from the famed Harrah's collection in Reno, Nevada, rescued the plane and began restoring it, piece by piece, to the exact condition and configuration as it was when new in 1928.

## A Good Day For a Walk

**O**n a beautiful day in May, Regional Office employees took part in a one-mile fitness walk led by Regional Forester John Mumma, Deputy Regional Forester Chris Risbrudt, and Tom Cotner of the Employee Wellness Program staff. This special occasion occurred on National Employee Health and Fitness Day, which provided an opportunity to celebrate the importance of wellness.



### Kootenai National Forest

## When We Cry Wolf -- We Mean It !!

by Dellora Gauger, Public Information Technician, Fortine Ranger District

**D**istrict Ranger Tom Puchlerz has learned the secret to getting his folks moving early in the morning. What is it? The cry, "Wolf on the lake" !!!

Shortly after 7 a.m., March 19th, coyotes were howling & yipping, birds chattering in the trees and 20 employees from the Fortine Ranger Station were standing on the bank of Murphy Lake, with their eyes fixed on the far shore. You heard comments like "Wow, is he big," "Look at that black on his back," "He's moving out faster now," and "Isn't he wonderful" !

It all started when Ranger Tom Puchlerz and Larry Hulslander heard coyotes making a ruckus down by the lake. Knowing there was a deer carcass on the ice, they decided to investigate. Through a spotting scope they saw a white/gray wolf with black markings down its back. Tom sent word over to the office that a wolf was on the lake and the mass exodus began. Soon 20 "wolf watchers" were lined up on the shore, waiting for a chance to look through the spotting scope and binoculars.

Wolves are not new to this district. For several years the Wigwam Pack has used the Wigwam Basin, traveling between the Fortine District and Canada. But a little over two years ago we received reports of wolf tracks and sightings in the southern portion of the district. In the last year the sightings have become more frequent, many local folks are becoming aware of the presence of the wolves and the differences between each one (one has a limp, one is black, others are gray). Most seem pleased to have them around.

The wolves, being in big game winter range, had an abundance of deer to feed on. One reason they were being seen so easily is that they were feeding on highway kills. Our volunteer, Sean Boushie, studying the district winter range deer use, had cut tracks of a pack of five, several times since January.

In the fall of '89, with the help of Tim Manley, developer



look of surprise.

Slipping out before daylight one morning last August, Guenter made his way to a spot near where the wolves had consistently been sighted and proceeded to "howl." Much to his pleasure and surprise, a litter of wolf pups howled back to him. A few weeks later, district and SO employees, representatives of the Wolf Ecology Project and US Fish and Wildlife Service set up a howling transect. About a dozen people were set in strategic places throughout the area, and tried to sound as much like wolves howling as they could. During the two days of howling, the pups were heard again. The US Fish and Wildlife Service, decided to come back later in the fall and try to trap and collar one or more of the wolves. Unfortunately, during the three weeks they were here, all they found was that the wolves had changed location. This month we will try to locate, trap and collar them again. We will then be able to further document the size of the pack, their use of the habitat, and their range.

With all the sightings we've had, the number of tracks around, and the abundance of deer for feed, it looks like the gray wolf has found a home on the Fortine Ranger District. As Ranger Tom was heard to say, "This is a great place to live!" - I would add "not only for people but the wolf, too."

# Our Beginnings -- A History of the Forest Service

**A**lthough 1991 marks the centennial of the creation of the forest reserves under the 1891 Act, they were not the first government forest reserves in the New World. Fifteen

## First National Government Forest Reserve in the Hemisphere

years before President Benjamin Harrison proclaimed the first Federal forest reserve, the Yellowstone forest reserve, the Spanish Crown had established reserves in Puerto Rico, then part of the Spanish Empire. The present Caribbean National Forest was formed from part of these lands.

Increased population pressure accelerated the rapid and widespread destruction of forest resources in Puerto Rico in the 19th century as forests were cleared for agricultural land, the economic base of the nation. The colonial wars of independence and illegal trade of timber led the island Governor in 1816 to restrict the sale of wood considered important for naval use.

If military concerns led to the first consideration of forest depletion, it was the impact of farming that really led to conservation measures. Alarmed by the extent of deforestation resulting from government-sponsored farming, Governor Miguel De La Torre issued a decree in 1824 to stem harm to watersheds by planting trees—the first conservation law in Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico remained under the dominion of Spain, which drafted the first comprehensive forest laws (1839) and set up forestry commissions that led to the first island-wide forest inventory in the 1850's. These were directed by "ingenieros de montes" (forest engineers) for the "cuerpo de montes" or forest corps, a department directed by the minister

by Terry West, Forest Service Historian, Washington Office

*This is the fifth in a series of articles describing the early beginnings of our agency. They are provided by the Chief's Office History Unit for the Forest Service Centennial.*



of public works and staffed by graduates of the Spanish forestry school.

Government protection of the forest resources eroded in the next decades as Spain's ability to fund distant programs faded along with its economic status. Yet, in 1876 King Alfonso XII strove to ensure continued conservation of soils and water quality and flows in Puerto Rico by creating forest reserves. Because the forests were sources of roofing material, fuelwood, and sawtimber for people, extractive regulations needed to be enforced by the "servicio de monteros" (forest service).

As part of the settlement of the Spanish-American war of 1898, control of Puerto Rico passed to the United States of America, which has governed it as a "commonwealth." In 1903 the Luquillo Forest Reserve was declared and in 1907 it was named a national forest. (It has the distinction of being the only forest reserve which was not established under authority of the 1891 Act. Instead, the reserve was established under a 1902 Act of Congress that gave the President one year to reserve "Crown lands" ceded to the United States by Spain in the Treaty of 1898.)

In 1935 it was renamed the Caribbean National Forest and additional land was purchased. In 1939, the Tropical Forest Experiment Station (now the Institute of Tropical Forestry) was established in Puerto Rico. Plans are underway to create an "international management model for tropical forests" in the only tropical ecosystem in the National Forest System—the Caribbean National Forest.

## Kootenai National Forest

### Tales For The Centennial

by Paulette Dimon, Rexford Ranger District



Retiree Sid Workman – one of the story-tellers at Eureka Rendezvous Days.

**I**n celebration of the Centennial of the National Forest System, Rexford Ranger District has focused on the senior citizens and retired Forest Service employees of the area. We have gathered historic stories told by local residents. These tales of fire lookouts, characters from years gone by, historic cabins and early days working in the woods are being published in the weekly newspaper. They have sparked much local interest.

During our Eureka Rendezvous Days (another celebration of history and a welcoming of spring) in April, we hosted

an open house at the old Forest Service cabin in the Eureka Historical Village. Forest Service retirees and the general public were enticed by freshly baked cookies and invited to exchange stories about the old days. The cabin, relics, stories and pictures brought back many memories for all who visited. The stories will be compiled into an historic booklet for the District files. Copies will be presented to each senior citizen participating in the program.

Also in the plans is our "Rails to Trails" project. We will be working with local community groups from both Eureka and Rexford to convert an old railroad track into a scenic and historic trail connecting the two towns. Future plans also include making this an interpretive trail. While walking the trail, folks will be able to learn about local geology, the railroad's history, and the Tobacco River.

Beaverhead National Forest**Beaverhead Anglers  
Keep Trophy**

by Norm Schluessler and Jack de Golia

**O**n February 18, the 5th annual Blowhard Fishing Tournament was held at Williams Lake, in Idaho's Salmon National Forest. Folks from the Salmon made all the arrangements for the tournament and put on a "tube steak" luncheon for 50 hardy fisherfolk who came from the Challis, Targhee, Beaverhead, and Salmon National Forests.

The Beaverhead jumped out to an early lead because we had the largest number of fisherpersons (that scores 20 points). The smallest fish is worth 20 points, but we lost that when a certain district ranger decided to throw it down the ice hole. Some team members kept the fish well fed but didn't add to the Beaverhead's points.

At the end of the day the Beaverhead team had walked off with all of the points except for the smallest fish (owing to the management error described above). We should note that the winning smallest fish had freezer burns on it. The tournament rules committee was notified of the suspected small-fish violation, but



**Beaverhead Blowhards:** from left, Dave Browning, Lynn Stonelake, Pete Smith, Ron Shott, James Browning, George Weldon, Barry Hicks, Mark Petroni, Rick Hockley, Norm Schluessler, Brad Smith, Paul Kokernak, Jim Christensen, Jonathan Stonelake, Ron Prichard, Brad Christensen, Gerry Alcock, and Sherry Christensen.

since they were also the alleged perpetrators they threw the charge out.

As a result of this victory, the Beaverhead keeps the coveted Blowhard

Trophy another year. The trophy is a shellacked blowfish on a board. It may be viewed by appointment only at the Beaverhead S.O.

**Big Hole Blast Results**

by Jack de Golia

**E**ach year the Beaverhead, Bitterroot, Salmon, and Challis National Forests hold an interregional snow sports competition at Lost Trail Pass on the Idaho-Montana line.

This year "Team Wisdom" wrested the Big Hole Blast trophy from the other teams at the competition. Team Wisdom used mercenaries (non-Wisdom employees) to win. "Team Sula"—a mixed group from across the region and largely not made up of Sula

employees—finished second.

Third place went to "Team Salmon." It should be noted that some members of the Salmon team accused Wisdom of cheating. However, there's no word on the fate of the accusers. In fourth place was "Team Dillon."

Next year's competition is scheduled for early March. Mark it on your calendars!

**In Memoriam**

**William Martin**, a Forest Service smokejumper based in Grangeville, was killed May 31 near Missoula, when his parachute failed to open. Martin, 34, began smokejumping in 1979 at LaGrande, Oregon, moving to Grangeville in 1980. He was a squad leader and a veteran of 230 jumps. *See news article on page 3.*

**Paul A. Decelle**, retired timber staff officer for the Clearwater NF, died May 5 in Spokane at the age of 60. Decelle also served as district ranger for Wallace District, Coeur d'Alene NF, from 1970-81. During this time he served as mayor of Wallace for three years. Other assignments were on the Flathead NF and the St. Regis District of Lolo NF. At the time of his death, Mr. Decelle was a member of the Idaho State Legislature and was mayor of Orofino. He retired from the Forest Service in 1983.

**Olive "Jo" Randall**, a former cook for the Red Ives Ranger Station and numerous blisterrust camps on the St. Joe National Forest, from 1950 to 1966, died May 5 in Coeur d'Alene. She was 95.

**Nellie Billings Conner** of Darby, Forest Service employee from the early 1920s until her retirement in 1961, died May 7 at 88.

**Gordon Gleed**, forestry technician for Elk City District, Nez Perce NF, died April 22 at 51. Gleed had worked on the Elk City

District since 1978. He had previously held positions on the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle NFs, and the Malheur and Winema NFs in Region Six.

**Darrel "Dode" Wade**, a lifetime north Idaho resident, died June 5 at age 75. Wade worked for the Forest Service from the late 1960s until retiring in 1979.

**Robert Spencer**, Clearwater NF retiree, died June 2 at 69. Spencer served as assistant ranger on Wallace District, Clearwater NF, and on Clearwater District, Nez Perce NF. He returned to the Clearwater NF, working on Pierce District until 1957, when he moved to the supervisor's office, serving as timber management planner and assistant staff officer until his retirement in 1980.

**Joseph W. Israel**, employee of the Gardiner District, Gallatin NF, died May 27 at the age of 68. He had worked for the Forest Service for over 16 years.

**Gerald McCarthy**, a SCESEP employee for Sandpoint District, Idaho Panhandle NFs, died May 29 at age 65.

**George L "Dim" Dye**, retired sales administrator in Region One, died April 23 at the age of 59 in Spokane. He had retired in 1986.

# Personnel Update

## BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

HOEM, CAROLYN, resour asst, SO, promotion  
 HOPPER, JIM, eng equip oper, SO, promotion  
 JONES, DEBRA, frstr, Wisdom RD, Student Trainee  
 SALO, DAVID, hydrol, Ozark-St. Francis NF, reassignment, SO  
 VAN KRIEKEN, ANN, soils sci, SO, promotion

## CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

ANDERSON, KENNETH, frstr, SO, prom, District Ranger, Beavercreek RD, Coconino NF  
 BUTLER, JOSEPH, biol tech, North Fork RD, career cond appt  
 BURNS, KATHY, frstry tech, Lochsa RD, reassign, frstry tech, Fernan RD, Idaho Panhandle NF  
 ENGLAND, TERESA, frstr, Pierce RD, cash award  
 FITCH, PETER, frstry tech, North Fork RD, cash award  
 GIESEY, MICHAEL, frstry tech, Pierce RD, conversion, frstr, Pierce RD  
 KEYES, THOMAS, civ eng, SO, prom, zone environ engr, Gallatin NF  
 KIRTLAND, ROBERT, survy tech, SO, career cond appt  
 LEWIS, TIM, frstry tech, Pierce RD, career cond appt  
 LYNCH, THOMAS, frstry tech, SO, career cond appt  
 PALMER, BRIAN, frstry tech, North Fork RD, conv, frstr, Pierce RD  
 PERRY, KRISTINA, frstry tech, Pierce RD, career cond appt, Lochsa RD  
 RASMUSSEN, BARBARA, coding clk, North Fork RD, car cond appt, clk typ, SO  
 RATLIFF, KENNETH, survy civ eng, SO, reassign, Custer NF  
 ROGERS, SUSAN, supp svcs survr, SO, cash award  
 SIDDALL, PHOEBE, biol tech, North Fork RD, career cond appt

## CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

ANTELL, MARY, secretary,(NDC), Award  
 BELL, PAMELA, info recep, Beartooth RD, cc Appt  
 DIBENEDETTO, JEFF, rge con, Medora RD, promotion  
 GOODWIN, JAMES, rge tech, Ashland RD, cc appt  
 GRINDE, CYNTHIA, resour clk, McKenzie RD, award  
 HAMANN, JOHN, rge con, McKenzie RD, award  
 MARK, CHARLES, frstr, Beartooth RD, award  
 OLSEN, TERRY, frstry tech, Ashland RD, promotion  
 SCHUMACHER, STEVE, rge tech, Sheyenne RD, award  
 VALENZUELA, DEANNE, SSS, Medora RD, promotion

## GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

BECKEN, PETER, frstr tech, Big Timber RD, career cond appt  
 BUGGER, KAY, info asst, Bozeman RD, promotion, SO  
 DENNY, ROSS, paralegal, SO, conversion career cond appt  
 GOWAN, NANCY, supp serv spec, SO, promotion  
 SPEARSON, CAROL, pers mgmt spec, SO, promotion  
 VAN OS, ALISON, info recep, Bozeman RD, resignation

## HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

BECK, BARB, dist ranger, Townsend RD, reassign, Nez Perce NF  
 BULCHIS, KATHRYN, wildl bio, SO, Award  
 COUTTS, TEDDI, comp asst, SO, promotion  
 FOSTER, LANCE, archeo, SO, coop-ed appt  
 GEORIO, JOHN, mtb veh opr, Wasatch-Cache NF, SO  
 HART, BARBARA, procurement clk, SO, reassign  
 HART, DENIS, dist ranger, Helena RD, promotion  
 HESTER, CHARLIE, frstr, Lincoln RD, promotion  
 LEATHERMAN, KEITH, frstry tech, Helena RD, cc appt  
 LEITH, JEAN, adm off, Townsend RD, promotion, Clearwater NF  
 MAYNARD, CATHY, soil sci, tr, SO, promotion  
 MILBURN, DENNIS, frstry tech, SO, promotion & award  
 MOOTHART, LAVERNA, purch agnt, SO, promotion  
 SENN, DON, frstry tech, Helena RD, promotion  
 WALSH, LEONARD. fish bio, SO, Award  
 WATKINS, MIKE, frstr, Townsend RD, reassign, Nez Perce NF,

## IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

ANDERSON, RODERICK, promotion, comp prog anal, Cda Nursery  
 GEORGE, RONA, promotion, frstr, Wallace RD  
 HOSACK, DAVID, cc appt, frstr tech, Cda Nursery  
 IVERSON, RON, frstr tech, reassign, civil eng tech, SO  
 JACOBSON, HEIDI, reassign, payroll clk, Priest Lake RD  
 JOHNSON, MELESSA, cash award, Wallace RD  
 LAY, TOM, frstr tech, promotion, lead frstr tech, Avery RD  
 MCCAMMON, MICHELLE, promotion, wildl bio, Bonners Ferry RD  
 MARNOVICH, JACQUELYNE, cash award, Wallace RD  
 METZGER, SUZANNE, resignation, Cda Nursery  
 MULLEN, PATRICK, promotion, wildl bio, Avery RD  
 NIPP, IRENE, cash award, Wallace RD  
 PALMER, SUSAN, promotion, resour clk, Priest Lake RD  
 REED, KAREN, cash award, SO  
 SIEREN, GARY, promotion, frstr adm, St. Maries RD  
 STRANAHAN, CAROL, promotion, resour clk, Avery RD  
 VANMAANEN, MARTIN, resignation, Avery RD  
 WALTZ, SUSAN, cc appt, bio aid, CDA Nursery

## KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

BROOKS, CHARLES, supvr frstr, SO, RS, reassign, SO, R/F  
 CANFIELD, JEFFREY, frstr, BIA, transfer, Rexford RD  
 CLARAHAN, JOHN, appt, frstry tech, Three Rivers RD  
 EVANS, BETSY, frstry tech (silv), Fortine RD, QSI  
 FANSLER, MARY, resour clk, SO, AS, promotion  
 HAZEN, JIM, frstry tech, Libby RD, special act  
 JOHNSON, PATTI, carto tech, SO, PS, promotion  
 KOOKEN, ROBERT, appt, auto wkr, Three Rivers RD  
 MARQUEZ, GUADALUPE, stu trainee, R4, Toiyabe NF, conv, cc appt & prom, fish  
 biol, SO, R/F  
 NESBITT, DAVID, frstry tech, Fortine RD, special act

## NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

ABBOTT, ROBERT, frstr adm, Salmon River RD, spec act award  
 BABLER, BARBARA, time & leave clk, Red River RD, promotion  
 HIGH, MARY ANN, wildl bio, Moose Creek Rd, promotion  
 HOCKING, SCOTT, frstr tech, SO, career cond appt  
 KEELER-MARTIN, KATHLEEN, civ eng tech, SO, promotion  
 MCGEE, MONICA, supv computer asst, SO, promotion  
 SELOSKE, GARRY, lead biol tech, Clearwater Rd, promotion  
 SMITH, MICHAEL, frstr tech, Red River RD, promotion  
 SOLEM, STEPHEN, frstr adm, Clearwater RD, spec act award  
 THERRELL, LISA, wilderness resour spec, Moose Creek Rd, promotion

## REGIONAL OFFICE

ACHESON, ANN, ecol, RAWE, cash award  
 ASKELSON, ELDON, airplane pilot, BIFC, to airplane pilot, A&FM, reassignment  
 BAND, LYNETTE, ofc automation clk, ADM, temp appt  
 BLACK, JILL, ofc automation clk, MTDC, temp appt  
 BLOCKER, LARRY, survy land arch, R6, to land arch, WRCR, promotion  
 BLOUNT, KEITH, carto aid, E, temp appt  
 BOWER, FRED, hiway engr, E, cash award  
 BRAIDA, JOHN, civil engr, E, cash award  
 CALCATERRA, JIM, materials engr tech, E, cash award  
 CLOSE, ELIZABETH, forester, WRCR, cash award  
 COMSTOCK, JUDY, prog asst, WRCR, cash award  
 DAVIS, LAURA, prog asst, MTDC, reassignment  
 DODGE, JOCELYN (DLDG), co-op trnee, WRCR (detail), cash award  
 DVORAK, JUNE, prog asst, E, cash award  
 EVENDEN, JEANNE, survy forester, R6, to forester, L&M, promotion  
 FLECK, JOAN, secy, RFO, to appeals asst, RFO, promotion  
 GOURNAY, BILL, survy civ engr, E, cash award  
 GRAHAM, DEAN, wildlife bio, TCFPM, cash award (from WO)  
 GRANT, JIM, survy for tech, A&FM, promotion  
 GREEN, BARBARA, purch agt, MTDC, temp appt  
 HALL, GLENDA, co-op trnee, R6, to co-op trnee, MTDC, reassignment  
 HARPER, BILLY, survy civ engr, E, cash award  
 HASTIE, LINDA, clk typ, WRCR, cash award & promotion  
 HILLARD, DONALD, environ engr, E, cash award  
 HOGAN, JIM, survy civ engr, E, cash award  
 HUGHES, JOHN, drf, RFO, cash award  
 KUETEMEYER, ED, environ engr, E, cash award  
 LAGO, LENISE, budg anal, L&FP, to forester, L&FP, reassignment  
 MACEO, HARRIS, accnt, R6, to survy accnt, ADM, reassignment  
 MALATARE, WYONA, prog asst, L&M, cash award  
 MANNING, CYNTHIA, NEPA spec, L&FP, to soc sci, L&FP, reassignment  
 MANNING, MARY, ecol, RAWE, promotion  
 MILLER, JODY, atty advisor, OGC, cash award  
 MONLUX, STEVE, survy civ engr, E, cash award  
 MONNIG, ED, ecol, TCFPM, cash award (from WO)  
 MUCHMORE, FRANK, survy structural engr, E, cash award  
 MYERS, JACQUELINE, equal emp spec, PM, promotion  
 PATTERSON, DON, geodesist, BLM, to land surveyor, E, reassignment  
 PLATTES, BARBARA, land law exmn, L&M, cash award  
 PUTNAM, BILL, hydrol, RAWE, temp promotion  
 QUEEN, KAREN, clk typ, RAWE, temp appt  
 RAPPE-DANIELS, OLLEKE, AO, Deerlodge, to prog asst, L&FP, reassignment  
 RASMUSSEN, PATRICIA, airplane pilot, A&FM, promotion  
 RISBRUDT, CHRIS, drf, RFO, cash award  
 ROOT, SUE, prog asst, WRCR, cash award  
 SAMPSON, FRED, wildl bio, R10, to wildl bio, WL&F, reassignment  
 SANDVIK, LOIS, clk typ, TCFPM, to secy typg, E, promotion  
 SCHNEIDER, KATHLEEN, carto aid, E, temp appt  
 SIEBERT, HARRY, survy gen engr, E, cash award  
 SMITH, CECILIA, clk typg, WRCR, temp appt  
 SMITH, HEATHER, comp sys anal, L&M, promotion  
 SOLEM, STEVE, frstr, Nez Perce, to appeals coord, RFO, promotion  
 TANASCU, MIKE, frstr, L&M, temp promotion  
 TUCKER, STEVE, clk typ, MTDC, temp appt  
 VACULIK, LESLIE, petroleum engr, NPS, to petroleum engr, L&M, reassignment  
 WALDRAM, CAROLE, comp prog anal, R5, to comp prog anal, A&FM, promotion  
 WALKER, CLIFFORD, frstr, BIA, to survy frstr, TCFPM, promotion  
 WHITMAN, ROZAN, dup equip op, MS, temp appt

## Making Tracks on Chief Joseph Pass

by Bill Avey, Recreation Forester, Wisdom Ranger District

**T**his past winter, through the cooperative efforts of three ranger districts, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and a local nordic ski club, about seven miles of cross-country ski trails were cut out at Chief Joseph Pass off Highway 43, west of Wisdom.

The non-profit Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club, based in Hamilton, Wisdom Ranger District of the Beaverhead NF, Sula District of the Bitterroot NF, and the North Fork District of the Salmon NF in Region Four entered into a cooperative agreement to provide this opportunity. The three districts worked with the club to lay out, cut, mark and sign the trails; the club agreed to groom the trails during ski season; and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks provided a surplus double-tracked snowmachine for grooming. These trails were available to the public at no charge.



The public's response was overwhelming! Skiers came from as far as Missoula and Butte; use increased throughout the ski season as word got out. The trail system has five loops, offering skiers a range of difficulty levels. Often families could be seen skiing the trails, then stopping to picnic at one of the adjacent meadows.

The club and the districts worked cooperatively, building friendships as well as trails. The club's president, Gordon Reese, of Victor, was presented with a print from the three districts as a thank you for his help and involvement. He was also given the President's Points of Light Award, an acknowledgement of special community service.

Both the club and the districts are looking forward to next winter, and another fun and successful year of providing this service to the public.

### The Northern Region News

USDA Forest Service  
P.O. Box 7669  
Missoula, MT 59807

**BULK RATE**  
Postage & Fees Paid  
USDA Forest Service  
Permit No. G-40

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (3)  
USDA  
SERIAL RECORDS, RM 002, VC#01603  
BELTSVILLE MD 20705

Official Business  
Penalty For Private Use, \$300



Printed on Recycled,  
Recyclable Paper